

PORTFOLIO:

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
JUDY PREST**

Health & Wellbeing

The Housing Team are currently involved in a number of projects which match up to the Housing Strategy Action Plan.

The Foyer: Discussions have been ongoing with the YMCA regarding their empty building on Fisher Street for the provision of a 17 bed Foyer for young persons requiring housing and support. Plans have been drawn up and discussions held with Planning regarding the project. Further work is currently taking place on putting a financial package together for the scheme. It is anticipated that the next report will be brought to the Executive in early autumn.

Extra Care Scheme: It is proposed to build a 40 unit scheme with support and care provided on site. Land has been identified at Newtown Road. It is envisaged to include two or three bungalows for younger persons requiring fully wheelchair-adapted properties. There has been an extremely good response to our advertisement for expressions of interest from Housing Providers with specialist expertise in supported housing. The next stage is to compile a shortlist of providers to proceed to the next stage of further questionnaire, interviews and presentations. I would hope that approval for tender would be with the Executive by September to fit in with the next round of bids (every 3 years) from the Housing Corporation which ends in November.

Families Hostel: The Families Hostel is no longer fit for purpose. The building is old with shared bathrooms, no suitable areas for children to play, etc. The project involving a replacement is in its early stages, however plans and costings will hopefully be brought to the Executive in early autumn.

Group Repair: Work is now due to start on 14 properties in Westmorland Street in Denton Holme this month. The delay in being able to commence the work has been due to problems with obtaining the relevant consent from one of the landlords.

Energy Efficiency Advice Centre: Congratulations are due to Suzanne Burgess and her team in winning the Ashden award jointly with EnWorks from Manchester.

The award is for work done in the field of energy efficiency. The award was presented by Al Gore at a ceremony in London. Following the award

there are offers coming in from various agencies who are wanting to work with us and we are also receiving offers of support. Well done Suzanne. With reference to Decent Homes – to date there have been 1207 referrals from vulnerable people 942 of these referrals have been completed and 2079 referrals from the elderly of which 1800 jobs have been carried out.

Smokefree Cumbria; The education officers have visited all businesses prior to the ban coming in on 1st. July offering help and advice. They have also visited a number of Neighbourhood Forums to inform the public and answer questions. The PCT are leading on a programme of education involving employees of various agencies i.e CHA; Age Concern; Carlisle City Council. The overall aim is to support employees who want to give up smoking. The target number is 25 for each training session to be financially viable. Feedback from the first session in June has been very positive with trainees keen to put stop smoking training process into practice.

Alleygates: In an attempt to reduce anti-social behaviour alleygates have been fitted in St Aidans and Castle Wards as a pilot project. It is planned to extend the programme and install gates at a further ten locations this year, with a further 60 – 70 locations being considered within the city.

The Prince's Trust Team 37 received £1000 grant from the CDRP to brighten up the Georgian Way underpass. It was officially opened on 20 June, by the Mayor, the work having started on 11 June. The new mural depicts Carlisle's diverse communities. The students were so enthusiastic and the work is beautiful, I recommend a walk along to take a look. It has been painted using anti-graffiti paint donated by CHA, so hopefully will be a joy for all who use the underpass for years to come.

Councillor J Prest
Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder